



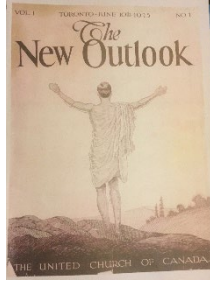
News from the Region: April 16, 2025



Short reminders of our history for this Centennial year

Throughout 2025, we'll be featuring very short stories about United Church history. Thanks to historian Gayle Simonson in Edmonton, we can also offer 100-word history vignettes for use in your own community! [Here are vignettes 1-8](#). And brand new, [here are vignettes 9-17](#). (Word format; when you click, the file will save automatically to your Downloads folder.) For our next vignette, she writes:

Before Union, each denomination had its own printing business to produce news and resources. Ryerson Press, the Methodist church publishing business, boasted "the most completely equipped printing and binding plant in Canada." Its *Christian Guardian* dated to 1829, *The Presbyterian Witness* to 1848, and *The Congregationalist* to 1854. At union they combined to form *The New Outlook*. In 1938, merged with two other United Church publications, it was renamed the *United Church Observer*. That name was recently changed to *Broadview*. It remains the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English-speaking world.



News of interest to the people of the Northern Spirit Region.

If you have news or events to share, please write a short description, with a clear headline and a link to more information, and send it to northernspirit@united-church.ca.

★ Add your local events to our Northern Spirit events calendar! ★
[Click here to view upcoming events](#). And [click here to submit your event](#).

Family News

💖 *Living Spirit United Church* is very pleased to be celebrating both the United Church's centennial and their official Affirming designation! Join them for their Centennial High Tea on Saturday, June 7, from 1 - 3 pm, at the Clean Energy Technology Center in Drayton Valley (5400 22nd Avenue). RSVP by June 2 to: livingspirituniteddv@gmail.com. Cards and congratulations can be sent to: 5141 54th Street, PO Box 6822, Drayton Valley, AB, T7A 1S2.

💖 *Athabasca United* is pleased to announce a special 100th Anniversary Celebration Service with our Moderator **The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne**. **Where:** Athabasca United Church, Athabasca. **When:** May 4th 10am – 11:30 am. **After:** Lunch (free will offering) will be offered at Amber Valley Hall along with a brief talk and tour of the Amber Valley Cultural Centre and an opportunity to meet and greet with our Moderator. **RSVP: Attention: FAB Collaboration:** buchurch2021@gmail.com. **Please RSVP by April 20th**. Posters available on request to buchurch2021@gmail.com.

💖 *Goodfish United Church* welcomes you to commemorate our centennial together, **May 25, 2pm**. If you feel moved to do so, please bring a food item to share. [Find us with this google maps pin](#). Several people will be staying May 24th and or the 25th at Metis Crossing - please contact Rev Kimberly Roy for directions or with any questions: 780-728-7455.

💖 *St. Stephen's College* invites you to a day of reflection to mark two centennials that fall near one another: the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada (in Summer 2025) and the 100th convocation of St. Stephen's College (held in Fall 2024). Come join us on **May 5** for a Day of Reflection at Southminster-Steinhauer

United Church, Edmonton, and/or for An Evening with the Moderator: a free public talk and discussion with the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. [Full details and RSVP here](#).

★ **An Easter message from our Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell**

How is Christ inviting us to set a wider table this Easter?

Who needs to hear God's invitation that they are welcome at this table?

How will you share the hope you have found in Christ with those who need more hope?

[Read and download Jordan's Easter message here](#) (pdf).

★ **Reminder to Communities of Faith:** In 2019 with the change in structure to Regions, the wider United Church also changed the **assessments process**. Assessments shifted at that time from being based on *total membership* to **total revenue**.

★ **Advance notice: Northern Spirit regional meeting and more, 29 May -June 1, Edmonton and online - REGISTER NOW !**

All welcome, both delegates and visitors, to our regional meeting. The agenda begins at 2:00PM Thursday May 29, runs through the evening, all day and evening May 30, including a public event, and concludes with day long sessions Saturday May 31, and a banquet Saturday evening.

A letter was sent to all in the Region with more details, [available here if you missed it!](#) More details will be posted to our meeting page as they are finalized. [Registration is now open](#), with early bird pricing in effect until **SUNDAY April 20!**

Proposals to the Regional Council: Deadline May 1

Northern Spirit meets in person and online May 29-June 1. Voting on proposals will be part of this meeting, as with all Regional meetings. Proposals create policies and other commitments or decisions for the regional council. All communities of faith and members of the Regional Council are invited to consider creating a proposal, but please have a careful look at what they are and how they should be written, [using this template and guiding questions](#). **The deadline to receive them is May 1.**

Update to Minimum Telephone/Communications Allowance Policy

An [updated Minimum Telephone/Communications Allowance for Ministry Personnel policy](#) has been approved and [posted to the website](#). Please contact the office if you have any questions.

★ **Choir gowns available:** 12 white children's gowns; 15 red gowns with shoulder covers; 9 red gowns without shoulder covers; and 9 black gowns all available to any interested churches. Contact Valerie Mintenko, vjmintenko@shaw.ca / 780-895-7786.

Wider Church News & Resources

★ Easter message from the Moderator

This message from The United Church of Canada's Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, connects the transformative power of Easter with the prophetic vision of Isaiah 65:17. Just as Easter demonstrates the possibility of resurrection and new life, Isaiah speaks of God creating "new heavens and a new earth." In these uncertain times, we explore how the hope of Easter and the promise of new creation can guide us forward, reminding us that love and forgiveness are the paths to a better future. [The video is here](#). You can also [download the video for offline use here](#).

★ UNJPPI April News

Find resources for the federal election and Holy Week in the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) [April news available to read at this link](#).

Federal election campaign, now through April 27

This is an important moment for discerning our collective response to pressing social issues, including widespread polarization and disinformation. We as a church have positive ideas, principles, and concerns to share with all candidates. A [shared regional and national United Church resource is now posted](#), so please have a look.

Important search the landfill update and prayer for the families

On Prairie to Pine Regional Council's website there are [updates and prayers about the ongoing search of Prairie Green landfill](#). Please use and share these. Also included is a reminder about the upcoming **Red Dress Day May 5**, and **Moosehide Day May 12**. Your community of faith is invited to honour these days, both of which focus on ending violence that continues to be a terrible lived reality for so many- including families who had to fight for the landfill search, and carry the grief of lost loved ones.

In Case You Missed It:

Job opportunities with the Centre for Christian Studies

The Centre for Christian Studies (CCS), Winnipeg, Manitoba, is seeking to hire two (2) full-time staff members, a Principal for Leadership and Development and a Finance & Administration Coordinator, to start this summer 2025. We are inviting applications until April 30th. Come join a dynamic and collaborative team with your gifts and skills! [Full details on the CCS website](#).

May is PAR Month!

Communities of faith all over Canada will be promoting consistent monthly giving through PAR all month long. Your community of faith should get involved!

PAR makes both giving and receiving simple for donors and communities of faith. If you haven't promoted your PAR program recently, or are not currently accepting automatic

monthly donations, May is your month to grow generosity in your congregation. There are resources—like letter templates, flyers and even a sermon—in the **Downloads** section of [this website](#). You can also reach out to your stewardship support person Vicki Nelson via [email](#).

Jubilee campaign for debt cancellation- and hope

Jubilee 2025 is a global ecumenical initiative that builds on the transformative success of Jubilee 2000, which canceled \$100 billion of debt for 36 low-income countries. The Global South and Indigenous communities face a devastating debt crisis, with many nations spending more on debt repayments than on healthcare, education or climate action. With other groups, [KAİROS is mobilizing communities of faith and conscience](#) to demand:

- * **Debt cancellation** for unjust and unsustainable debts.
- * **Global financial reform** to prevent future crises.
- * **A debt resolution framework within the United Nations** that is transparent, binding and fair.

Worship Resources:

See United Church [Worship Resources](#) for upcoming Sundays and special celebrations.

[Good Friday - April 18, 2025](#)

[Easter/Resurrection Sunday - April 20, 2025](#)

[Earth Sunday - April 20, 2025](#)

[Second Sunday of Easter - April 27, 2025](#)

[Camping Sunday - April 27, 2025](#)

[Third Sunday of Easter - May 4, 2025](#)

[Mental Health Sunday - May 4, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 1 - May 4, 2025](#)

[Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 11, 2025](#)

[Asian Heritage Month 2 - May 11, 2025](#)

[Christian Family Sunday - May 11, 2025](#)

* [Click here to access Northern Spirit's 2025 Prayer Cycle](#)

● [Click here to access past Newsletter issues](#)



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